

Civic Engagement

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Life Skills, Academic Service Learning



Moving On

I once explained to my wife that my knees were not what they once were and that I thought we were getting old. She quickly retorted that she would not do that with me, I would have to do it by myself. While I admire my wife's desire to maintain her youth, and I too would like to be guilty of at least "thinking" young, reality tells me that I would do well to resolve to age, and "move on" gracefully.

"Moving on" seems to be one of the challenges of life. I have always thought the words of Brigham Young, when he surveyed the valley of the Great Salt Lake from his sick bed were interestingly significant. "This is the right place, drive on," he said. He recognized the valley, knew it was the place where he was supposed to be, and then without lingering or resting, gave the command "drive on." He was anxious to begin anew, and to get the pioneers settled and to work. He knew that the season was short, and that there was much to be done. He did not spend time reveling about the accomplishments of the immigrants who made it to the valley, or in relaxation and enjoyment because he had reached the end of the journey. There were new roles and assignments for these immigrants. They were now to become settlers, and discontinue their roles as traveling pioneers. The trek was over; it was time for new responsibilities. And so they planned a city, plowed the ground, irrigated the soil, and built shelters to live in. To survive, change was imperative. They knew what their leader meant by the phrase, "drive on."

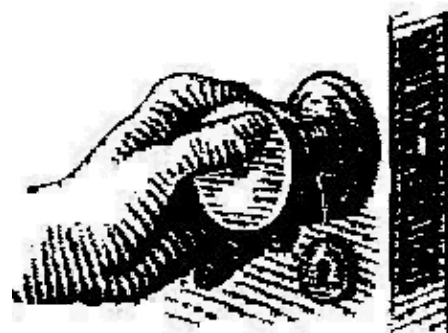
There are many tragic stories of pioneers who had difficulty moving on. The Donner party started their journey late in the season because of a variety of excuses. There were just so many things that had to be put in proper order before they could start on their journey. Their delays resulted in fatal consequences as they became trapped in a severe snowstorm in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Their procrastination and inability to embrace change was a significant cause of their tragedy.

All of us have times in our lives when we must "move on". Change is rarely comfortable and convenient. It always requires new growth and commitment. Often it requires a re-examination of our goals and values. Because it forces us outside our comfort zone, we often have difficulty embracing it.

We all know of those who have been unable to move ahead with their lives. Perhaps, we, ourselves, have had this experience. We sometimes reach a plateau and lack the energy or incentive to climb any higher. We falsely imagine that we have reached a destination in life, and that no further progress is necessary. Perhaps it is seen in an athlete, now long past the age for competition still reliving images of past achievement. Perhaps it is a former legislator who has difficulty relinquishing the responsibilities of his office. Perhaps it is the ex-high school beauty queen who continues to demand to be the center of attention.

We may also know of those who have been able to accept change, and move into new circumstances gracefully. They carefully complete the work of one assignment, attending to details that will make the transition for their successors smooth and easy. They leave responsibilities with no regret, having fulfilled them in admirable fashion, and now look cheerfully and optimistically to new challenges and opportunities.

In our fast paced society, we have to prepare students to function in a variety of situations. They will have numerous changes and challenges in their lives. Teaching them to successfully complete projects and then to "move on" are important skills for them. They must be able to adapt to a wide variety of circumstances in their lives. As we teach them to be life-long learners they will have to learn how to accommodate for graceful change. It's a necessary skill for tomorrow's citizens. - Alan Griffin



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We know that helping others is the best way—probably the only way to achieve a better future for ourselves. -- Harry S. Truman

Caring Institute Accepting Nominations for the Caring Award

Deadline: September 28, 2008

The [Caring Institute](#) is now accepting nominations of individuals of all ages for the Caring Award.

Nominations should describe, in at least 500 words, individuals who personify caring, and would be a worthy role model to be emulated by others. Letters of recommendation should be included to give testimony to a long-standing commitment to public service.

Nominations should give consideration to: length of service; scope and impact of work; degree of difficulty and obstacles encountered; and imagination and innovation. Award recipients are flown to Washington, D.C., and honored at a special ceremony. Young adult recipients receive educational monies for college tuition.

Complete award program information and nomination form are available at the Caring Institute Web site. RFP link:

<http://www.caringinstitute.org/caringawards.html>

History Channel Announces Guidelines for Save Our History Grant Program

Deadline: June 6, 2008

An initiative of the [History Channel](#), the Save Our History Program invites history organizations to partner with a local school or youth group and apply for funding to help preserve the history of their communities. Each year, the History Channel awards grants to organizations across the country that partner with schools or youth groups on community-preservation projects that engage students in learning about, documenting, and preserving local history.

Eligible applicants are nonprofit 501(c)(3) history organizations such as museums, historical societies, preservation organizations, historic sites, libraries, archives, or other history organizations that are located in one of the fifty states or the District of Columbia. Other eligible applicants include local government agencies such as parks and recreation commissions, historic commissions, departments of local history, or other local government agencies that own and/or operate a historic site or property. Eligible applicants must partner with a local elementary, middle, or high school, or an organization that provides educational programming for children of similar ages. Applicants may partner with multiple schools or educational organizations.

The History Channel will award a total of \$100,000 in grants of up to \$10,000 each in 2008. All applications must be completed and submitted online.

RFP link:

http://www.history.com/minisite.do?content_type=Minisite_Generi&content_type_id=51650&display_order=3&mini_id=51103

Life Skills Summer Training

"Pathways to Potential" is the theme for this year's Life Skills summer training. Designed for all teachers and administrators, this 2 day workshop will provide an in-depth look at the seven domains of Life Skills. Attendees will sample numerous activities and strategies that will strengthen any curriculum while helping students link subject matter to life experience.

The workshop is also designed to assist participants with ways to document Life Skills for accreditation. Participants will share experiences and best practices that promote character development and engaged citizenship. It will focus on the State Board of Education's goal to help students achieve competency and realize their potential. Practical methods will be explored to support school and district mission statements and help students create their own lifetime educational goals.

Life Skills is supported by many statewide organizations. This workshop will show ways to link community experience into learning.

This year's workshop is scheduled for June 24-25 at the Cotton Tree Inn, 2230 N. University Parkway in Provo. Participants will receive meals, and a \$150 stipend from the State Office of Education for the 2 day training. Lodging and mileage for those 50 miles away may be arranged. To register call or email Elaine Jones (801-538-7977, elaine.jones@schools.utah.gov) by May 30, 2008.

See the flyer on the web page at

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/lifeskills/pdf/Life%20Skills%20Accreditation%20flyer%2008b.pdf>

Judge for a Day

Applications are available for high school students to participate in the annual "Judge for a Day" program from Utah Judicial Outreach. This event gives students first hand experience shadowing a judge in his/her daily responsibilities. Students wishing to participate can apply by writing an essay or merely by receiving a recommendation from a teacher. This is an outstanding opportunity for students.

Be sure to check out the flyer

(<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/civics/pdf/Judge%20for%20a%20Day%20Flyer-2008.pdf>)

and application form

(<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/civics/pdf/Submit%20on%20Form.pdf>).





2008 Conference on Service:

The Utah Commission on Volunteers, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, is pleased to announce the 2008 Utah Conference on Service, April 29-30 at the Provo Marriott. This year's theme, "Service ~ The Sweet Life" will focus participants on the benefits and rewards of service. Our goal this year is to provide examples of "teaching someone to fish" with the net result of real sustainability of programs and projects that bring "the sweet life" to more and more of the people we all serve.

The Conference opens on Tuesday, **April 29th**, with a welcome reception at the BYU Alumni Center from 5:00-7:00 PM. Immediately following will be the Hope of America Foundation Student Showcase concert at the Marriott Center (right across the street) where the Commission on Volunteers will be recognized on behalf of Utah's citizens for making us #1 in the nation for volunteering! Wednesday,

April 30th, opens with a keynote by Merrilee Boyack, outstanding lecturer and author of the new book, "52 Weeks of Fun Family Service". **Workshops throughout the day include a track for Learn and Serve school districts and anyone interested in grant writing and service learning. These sessions, sponsored by the Utah State Office of Education, will provide instruction and training to schools and districts wishing to apply for Academic Service Learning Grants for the 2008-2009 school year. Attendees from schools and districts may sign up at <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=192282> and select "USOE" as the registration type.**

New this year is a service project area where you can learn and unwind while volunteering with friends. Keynote speaker at the awards luncheon will be Jed Medefind, Deputy Director of the Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives. To nominate an outstanding volunteer from your county, contact your local Volunteer Center; locate your county's volunteer center by visiting www.volunteers.utah.gov.

For more information about the 2008 Utah Conference, "Service ~ The Sweet Life," please feel free to contact the Commission on Volunteers at www.volunteers.utah.gov or 801-538-8785. We look forward to seeing you in April!

2008 Youth Summit

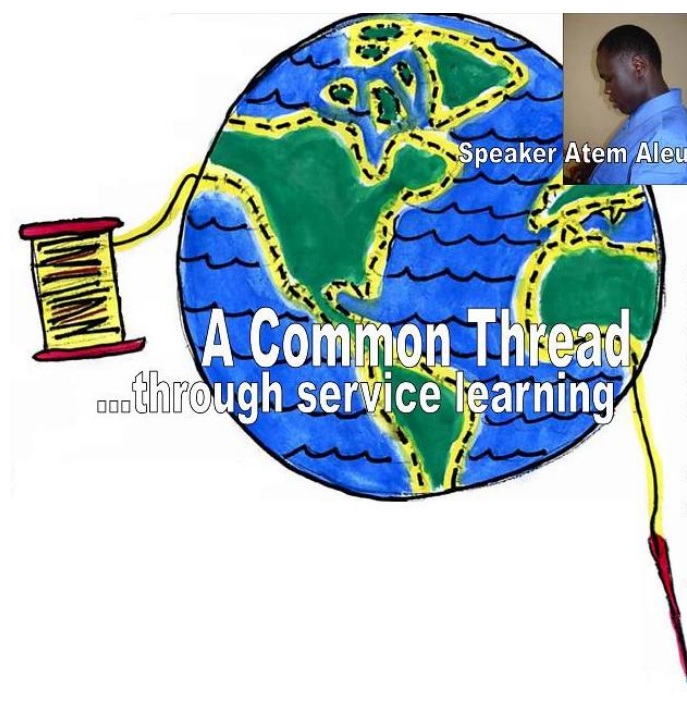
"A Common Thread" is the theme for this year's Youth Summit to be held at the University of Utah, June 10-12, 2008. The workshop will focus on overcoming issues that accompany diversity through Academic Service Learning, while building character and leadership. This exceptional opportunity is offered to teams of 4 students with an adult leader. Students will stay in the Olympic Village on the university campus and will enjoy great speakers, good food, and a full day of hands-on Service Learning.

This year's event features Atem Aleu, one of the Sudanese "lost boys". First Lady, Mary Kaye Huntsman will also address participants. The workshop promises lots of interactive, experiential learning, with a focus on developing confidence in youth to overcome differences and solve problems.

Sponsors of the youth summit include: the Utah State Office of Education, Community of Caring, Learning for Life, Boys and Girls Clubs, Lowell Bennion Community Service Center, Utah Campus Compact, Ogden City Schools, Youth Linc, Learn and Serve America, Inclusion Center for Community and Justice, Tanner Center for Nonviolent Human Rights Advocacy, Human Rights Education Center of Utah, Utah Federation of Youth, Utah Commission on Volunteers, Prevention Dimensions and the Utah PTA. It is truly a collaborative event, with involvement from a wide variety of civic and community organizations in concert with educational institutions.

The cost of this year's summit is \$500 per team. This will cover two nights' lodging, meals and conference materials. A limited number of scholarships are available from the State Office for teams who need financial assistance. Contact Alan Griffin at alan.griffin@schools.utah.gov (801-546-3730) for this option.

Registration for the conference is online at http://www.communityofcaring.org/ServicesAndResources/YouthConference/2008_youth_summit_price_registration.html



2008 State Forum on Character Education



CHARACTER . . . THE RACE IS ON For Smart and Good Schools

2008 State Forum on Character Education

When: June 10, 2008 (Secondary Session), July 11 or 12, 2008 (Elementary Session), 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where: Murray High School, 5440 South State, Salt Lake City

Registration \$35.00 (Includes continental breakfast, lunch and book)

Presenters: Dr. Tom Lickona, Director of the Center for the Fourth and Fifth Rs (Respect and Responsibility) at SUNY Cortland, and Dr. Matt Davidson, President and Director for the Institute for Excellence and Ethics

Join us for a premier professional learning experience based on the ground-breaking research by Drs. Lickona and Davidson on the dual purposes of education: excellence and ethics. The agenda will offer research-based education strategies that top performing schools across the nation have integrated into their total school programs. This is a one-day workshop open to all Utah educators. Schools are encouraged to register as teams but individuals may register as well. Sponsored by: the Utah Coalition for Civic, Character, and Service Learning; Granite School District; Salt Lake City School District; and Murray School District. Send registration information and a check for \$35 to CeCie Scharman, Curriculum, Salt Lake City School District, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. (Registration form found at

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/lifeskills/pdf/Smart%20and%20Good%20Schools%20State%20Workshop%202008.pdf>



THE BRANCHES OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Sponsored by the Utah Coalition for Civic, Character and Service Learning and the Utah State Office of Education

A Civics Workshop for Teachers and Pre-Service Teachers

June 17 - 19, 2008, Utah Law & Justice Center, 645 South 200 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Come participate in an exciting investigation of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government. Sessions will be held at significant historical sites in Utah's capital city. Attendees will experience practical strategies to help students become well-informed and engaged citizens.

This workshop is offered free of charge to teachers and will carry 1.5 hours of USOE professional development credit or 2 credit hours from SUU.

To register, go to: <http://www.solutionwhere.com/provo/cw/showcourse.asp?614>

Direct inquiries to:

Alan Griffin (801-538-7761) Kristie Fink (801-916-2026)



Patti Harrington, Ed. D.
State Superintendent of Public
Instruction

Alan Griffin
Life Skills, Academic Service
Learning Specialist
Utah State Office of Education
250 E. 500 S.
Salt Lake City, UT
84114-4200

Phone:
(801) 538-7761

Fax:
(555) 538-7769

E-mail:
alan.griffin@schools.utah.gov

A parting thought:

"So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart. Trouble no one about their religion; respect others in their view, and demand that they respect yours. Love your life, perfect your life, beautify all things in your life. Seek to make your life long and its purpose in the service of your people. Prepare a noble death song for the day when you go over the great divide. Always give a word or a sign of salute when meeting or passing a friend, even a stranger, when in a lonely place. Show respect to all people and grovel to none. When you arise in the morning give thanks for the food and the joy of living. If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies only in yourself. Abuse no one and no thing, for abuse turns the wise ones to fools and robs the spirit of vision. When it comes your time to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with the fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song and die like a hero going home."

-Tecumseh

Great Web Sites

TED – Ideas worth spreading. Inspired talks by the world's greatest thinkers and doers - <http://www.ted.com/>

What Kids Can Do - <http://www.whatkidscando.org/#>

Create Your Own Notebook – Lessons in Core Democratic Values - <http://www.michiganepic.org/coredemocratic/>

USOE Websites:

Life Skills – <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/civics/lifeskills/index.htm>

Character Ed – http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/char_ed/default.htm

Civics – <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/civics/index.htm>

Service Learning – <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/servicelearning/index.htm>